



Children & Young People Select Committee

Lewisham Safeguarding Children Partnership Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements Update

Date: 10 March 2020

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Mick Brims – Interim Strategic Safeguarding Lead, Lewisham Safeguarding Children Partnership

Outline and recommendations

Lewisham Safeguarding Children Partnership was established in September 2019, in line with reforms contained within the Children & Social Work Act (2017) and replaces the former Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board.

The purpose of this report is to update the Children & Young People Select Committee on the progress of the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Lewisham.

The Children & Young People Select Committee is requested to note the contents of this report.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

02.09.2019 – Lewisham Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) formally constituted.
Previous Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board dissolved.

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report covers the period 02.09.2019 to 27.02.2020, since the inception of the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Partnership. The LSCP has worked since September 2019 to implement new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements focused on specific safeguarding priority areas to make a positive impact on the lives of children and families.
- 1.2. This report outlines how the LSCP is currently structured, its key areas of focus at this time (domestic abuse and adolescent safety) and how different arms of the LSCP seek to address these safeguarding priority areas.
- 1.3. This report also provides an outline of statutory framework that the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Partnership resides within, moving forward from the former Lewisham Safeguarding Board statutory framework.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Members of the Children & Young People Select Committee are requested to note the contents of this report.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1. Statutory Guidance within '*Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)*' contains key changes to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in local authority areas. As a result of reforms in the '*Children & Social Work Act (2017)*', overall responsibility for safeguarding children within Lewisham is now shared equally by three 'safeguarding partners'. These partners are Lewisham Council, NHS Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the Chief Officer of the Metropolitan Police South-East Basic Command Unit (SE-BCU). Statutory guidance in *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)* also stated that the three safeguarding partners must also work closely with other 'relevant agencies' in Lewisham who are involved in safeguarding children.
- 3.2. *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)* also calls for the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Partnership to publish its arrangements about how safeguarding agencies will work together, and hold one another to account and share learning to improve safeguarding work. This statutory guidance also calls for the LSCP to forge links with other safeguarding boards (eg. Health & Well-Being Boards, Adult

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Safeguarding Boards) to be effective in safeguarding children.

- 3.3. *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)* also provides for the creation of the role of ‘Independent Scrutineer’ to replace the former LSCB Independent Chairperson. The role of the Independent Scrutineer is to “...consider how effectively the arrangements are working for children and families as well as for practitioners, and how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership and agree with the safeguarding partners how this will be reported.” (*Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, p.77*).
- 3.4. The LSCP is directed to provide an annual report in within this statutory guidance, reporting on the activity of the partnership and how effective multi-agency safeguarding arrangements have been in practice. This annual report will be also be subject to review by the Independent Scrutineer.

4. Background

- 4.1. As noted above, the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Partnership has moved to a model of multi-agency (Police, Local Authority, Health) oversight and responsibility for safeguarding. This responsibility was previously held wholly by the Local Authority.

5. Lewisham Safeguarding Children Partnership Structure & Activity

- 5.1. The Lewisham Safeguarding Children Partnership has developing a safeguarding priority-based approach to challenging and developing practice in Lewisham. Currently, the LSCP is focusing on domestic abuse and adolescent safety as its key safeguarding priority areas. Within these areas, the LSCP is developing a number of specific objectives to achieve that will create meaningful impact for children and families in Lewisham.
- 5.2. The LSCP is structured by way of an overarching Executive Partnership, comprised of the safeguarding SE-BCU Detective Superintendent (Metropolitan Police), Executive Director for Children & Young People (Lewisham Council) and the Managing Director of the NHS Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). This group meets on a monthly basis and has oversight of the wider LSCP.
- 5.3. The ‘Safeguarding Partnership’ is a broader range of senior managers and clinicians across selected from both statutory, non-statutory and voluntary safeguarding agencies in Lewisham. LSCP subgroups currently report to this broader partnership for oversight and to consider emerging safeguarding themes from LSCP Subgroup work.
- 5.4. The LSCP has four Subgroups that respectively:
 - 5.4.1.1. Review multi-agency data and complete multi-agency audits (Monitoring, Evaluation & Service Improvement Subgroup);
 - 5.4.1.2. Complete Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and multi-agency learning reviews of safeguarding cases (Learning From Practice Subgroup);
 - 5.4.1.3. Provide operational and strategic responses to children and young people at risk of going missing, exploitation, trafficking and serious youth violence (Concern Hub);
 - 5.4.1.4. Creates a conduit for safeguarding concerns from within schools and educational settings to the wider LSCP and provides for learning and safeguarding trends from other parts of the LSCP to be shared with teachers and education providers (Schools Safeguarding Network).
- 5.5. The LSCP is also point of a joint Subgroup administered by the Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) named the Housing Provider Forum. This subgroup gives the opportunity to work with housing providers in Lewisham around safeguarding

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issues for children and their families across a full age range.

- 5.6. The LSCP has taken the approach of looking to create real world, positive impact and change for children and families in Lewisham. The LSCP will achieve this by focusing in on specific areas around addressing domestic abuse and adolescent safety concerns in Lewisham.
- 5.7. In addition to challenging safeguarding practice and sharing learning identified in the subgroups above, the LSCP will agree arrangements with its member agencies to return to each group (whether via audit, consultation or other activity) to fully understand the impact of any challenge or learning shared for children and families. The LSCP will use this impact evidence to guide where it will next focus its attention to create further impact for children and families.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1. Section 16(E) of the *Children & Social Work Act (2017)* contains key amendments to the *Children Act (2004)*. These amendments outline the abolition of Local Safeguarding Children Boards and formalise the role of the 'Safeguarding Partners' (Lewisham Council, NHS Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the Chief Officer of the police within a local authority area).
- 7.2. The revised regulatory framework indicates that Safeguarding Partners have a range of roles and statutory functions, including developing multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Lewisham and providing for scrutiny of these arrangements.
- 7.3. As noted above at paragraphs 3.1 & 3.2, the Safeguarding Partners "...should agree co-ordinate their safeguarding services; act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others; and implement local and national learning including from serious child safeguarding incidents." *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)*
- 7.4. The Safeguarding Partners must also report upon how effective multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are and provide for scrutiny these arrangements, as outlined at paragraphs 3.3 & 3.4 above.

8. Equalities implications

- 8.1. Equality, diversity and disproportionality are key principles that the LSCP must keep in mind at all times.
- 8.2. When considering safeguarding practice and the impact that the LSCP will try to achieve for children, all LSCP work specifically considers these principles in understanding safeguarding need, sharing learning and when considering how to create impact for children. This applies to data analysis, case review learning and other LSCP work.
- 8.3. The LSCP has an ongoing, overarching duty and commitment to elimination of discrimination, advance equal quality opportunity and foster good relationships.
- 8.4. The LSCP is committed to considering all implications within the *Equality Act (2010)* for children and families in Lewisham. Whilst this report does not have specific implications for persons with specific protected characteristics or within wider groups of persons suffering from inequality or discrimination, the LSCP is focused on challenging and addressing any such activity in all aspects of its work.

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9. Climate change and environmental implications

- 9.1. There are no specific climate change and environmental implications arising from this report

10. Crime and disorder implications

- 10.1. There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.
- 10.2. The LSCP (particularly via its Concern Hub subgroup) works to reduce risk of harm to children and young people at risk of crimes perpetrated against them. This includes child criminal and sexual exploitation, trafficking and serious youth violence. The LSCP's work in this area seeks to reduce the impact of violence and reduce risk of violence to children and young people.

11. Health and wellbeing implications

- 11.1. There are no specific health or well-being implications arising from this report.
- 11.2. Health and well-being implications are an intrinsic and ongoing element of all LSCP work in working to support and improve safeguarding practice in Lewisham. Achieving positive health and well-being outcomes remains a key element of the LSCP multi-agency approach to safeguarding children in Lewisham.

12. Background papers

- 12.1. Appendix 1 - Lewisham Safeguarding Children Partnership Structure Chart
- 12.2. Appendix 2 - Lewisham Safeguarding Children Partnership '*Memorandum of Understanding*' Document
- 12.3. Appendix 3 - Lewisham Safeguarding Children Partnership '*Learning From Good Practice, Near Misses & Serious Safeguarding Incidents*' document

13. Glossary

Term	Definition
LSCP	'Lewisham Safeguarding Children Partnership'. This is the new multi-agency body overseeing safeguarding of children within Lewisham from September 2019 onward.
LSCB	'Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board'. This was the multi-agency body overseeing safeguarding of children in Lewisham until September 2019.
LSAB	'Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board'. This is the multi-agency safeguarding body that oversees safeguarding of adults within Lewisham.

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Term	Definition
Safeguarding Partners	<p>This term is used in this document to reference the lead safeguarding officers within Lewisham Council, NHS Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group and the Metropolitan Police that are responsible for safeguarding in the Lewisham area.</p> <p>These three persons share equal responsibility for the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Lewisham.</p>

14. Report author and contact

- 14.1. **Mick Brims – Interim Strategic Safeguarding Lead – Lewisham Safeguarding Children Partnership**
- 14.2. mick.brims@lewisham.gov.uk

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